

SECRET

June 1952

CHARACTER CHECK ON FERENC KOSZORUS (COLONEL - GENERAL)

Ref.: 6-8-1-251 (WHL-9); 200-6-12-48 (SAIZ 254)(IN-15037)(1952);
6-6-1-833 (LHVA-6229); 200-7-33-20 (SZ-43); 32-8-1-21 (LHVA-1972);
100-2-13-1370 (SODB-41947); 100-2-28-836; 68-6-2-1559 (LSA-3468);
32-6-7-380 (MGL-3168); 100-2-15-1 (DFB-6547)(Encl. 4, p. 4).

Restricted report (unrevealed date): Source mentioned only two members of LHBK leadership whom he considers true "democrats." These are Col. Ferenc Koszorus, Zako's deputy in Munich, and Albin Kapitanfi. Koszorus succeeded Ladislaus Eszenyi as liaison with John Clark, CIG Officer in Munich, a naturalized American of Hungarian origin ne John Zukor who was a former schoolmate in Hungary of Kalman Salata. Koszorus is opposed by the Arrow Cross leaders in the LHBK.

Another source cited two names mentioned in the above paragraph, i.e. Koszorus and Kapitanfi, plus Ferenc Kovacs. He believes that Kapitanfi could be weaned away from the Zako group.

Report dated 20 July 1949: Several months ago General Zako set up an organization of former Hungarian Army officers located in Austria and Germany to engage in intelligence work. Zako, based in Innsbruck, was to handle the Austrian end with a deputy in Germany. The latter is Col. Ferenc Koszorus, living in Ager, described as a famous but modest officer whose Panzer Division safe-guarded Regent Horthy from the Nazis in July, 1944.

Conference of the Hungarian Front fighters Group in Munich (15 July 1950): During the conference a noteworthy incident took place. A politically naïve old Col. Ferenc Koszorus, who was probably promoted by the Hungarian Union, started a debate in which he spoke out against the foreign leadership in the Hungarian Army (the old A.U.K. Officers who came from Austria). He stated that the Hungarian soldiers would fight well only if they had Hungarian commanders, and gave as an example the Infantry Regiment No. 6 during the First World War. Otto Von Hapsburg also attended this conference and remained present for a long time during Koszorus' talk.

Report dated 15 July 1950: At a meeting of 50 leaders of the Hungarian Emigré Group, which Otto addressed in Vienna, the original purpose was to consider charges presented by a dissident group within the LHBK that General Zako is exploiting this organization for his own neo-fascist political ends and that Zako no longer represented the views of the majority of the LHBK members. The leader of the Zako opposition is General Koszorus who is closely supported by Ferenc Tasnadi-Kovacs. Contrary to a news article which appeared in the newspaper Hungaria, no decision was reached regarding the charges brought against the LHBK leadership, and the matter was referred to a committee for further study.

LHVA-5644 dated 4 August 1950: While [] was visiting Kovacs in Munich, he learned that Kovacs claimed to be General Koszorus' right-hand man in the opposition group, a statement which was later confirmed independently by General Hennyel.

(Reported dated 13

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FERENC KOSZORUS - (Continued)

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Report dated 13 February 1951. Colonel Koszorus was a worthy leader in the U. S. Zone in Germany. A reliable officer, he has a small group of staff officers with him. Considered friendly towards the United States; a useful and a competent officer. (Uneval.)

Report made in early 1951: General Zako accompanied by Col. Lajos Nadas and others of his staff, visited Bela Varga during the latter's visit to Salzburg in 1951. Varga asked Zako to renounce his independent political lines. The General refused, no compromise could be reached, and talks ended without success. Following the failure of this talk, the military group prepared a white book publishing certain letters of General Bela Lengyel, Ferenc Koszorus, and Sandor Homlak. These three men now form the main opposition to Zako's movement; however, previously they had hailed his activity before the Hungarian War Veterans.

Report dated 29 March 1951. In the MHBK, Koszorus is reputed to have led internal opposition to the leadership of General Zako, and one report states that Koszorus is one of two leading members in the MHBK who could be considered democratic.

Report dated 28 June 1951. Report from USO states that Koszorus escaped to Germany where he is reported to have served during 1945 as lay president of the Hungarian Reformed Church in exile. In 1951 Koszorus came to the United States as a DP, and as of February, 1951, his address was: c/o James F. Dalton, Box 203, Watsonville, California.

6 June 1952

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